



ACTIVITY BRIEF

MARCH 6–8, 2017, BENER MERIAH
(GAYO REGION), ACEH

MARCH 13–16, 2017, NORTH TORAJA,
SOUTH SULAWESI



TPSA | CANADA-INDONESIA TRADE AND
PRIVATE SECTOR ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Strengthening Indonesia's Coffee Industry Through Sustainable Coffee Farming and Post-Harvesting

The Canada-Indonesia Trade and Private Sector Assistance (TPSA) project organized training-of-trainers workshops in Bener Meriah (Gayo region) and North Toraja, South Sulawesi. The goal of the workshops was to increase the knowledge and skills of Indonesian coffee producers in sustainable and environmentally friendly coffee production and post-harvesting.

Background

Indonesian coffee was selected as a TPSA target commodity due to its strong potential for exports to the Canadian market. In addition to helping small and medium-sized Indonesian coffee producers access the Canadian market, TPSA project activities also help these exporters improve their environmental and social performance.

An assessment by TPSA environment experts found that the majority of small and medium-sized specialty coffee exporters (cooperatives and firms) in the two regions of focus—Gayo region (Aceh) and Makassar (South Sulawesi)—already possessed eco-label certification, including Organic, Fair Trade, C.A.F.E. Practices, Rainforest Alliance, and UTZ. These certifications demonstrate that coffee supply chain farmers have adopted, and are regularly audited for, environmentally friendly farming and processing practices that meet domestic and international standards. This is encouraging, as are broader overall trends. However, eco-certification still only covers 7 per cent of Indonesian coffee producers.



Workshop in Bener Meriah (Gayo region), Aceh.

Most Indonesian coffee farmers have yet to adopt high-productivity, sustainable agricultural practices (e.g., good seedlings, fertilizing, integrated pest management), resulting in relatively low coffee yields (600–800 kilograms per hectare).

To expand coffee exports, and increase coffee productivity and sustainability, environmentally progressive coffee production and post-harvesting practices need to become more widespread in

Canada

Program undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada

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Indonesia. To this end, TPSA organized training-of-trainers workshops on sustainable coffee farming and post-harvesting.

The training-of-trainers workshops targeted Gayo and South Sulawesi front-line coffee stakeholders, especially agricultural extension officers (AEO) who directly work with farmers. This was to ensure that the training will benefit a large number of farmers in these two coffee-producing centres. The workshop objectives were:

- to improve the knowledge and skills of agricultural extension officers and lead farmers in environmentally friendly coffee production (good agricultural practices) and post-harvest handling;
- to improve agricultural extension officers' and lead farmers' knowledge of social and environmental standards and their role in supporting the domestic and export coffee industries;
- to improve the knowledge and skills of agricultural extension officers and lead farmers on the effects of climate change on coffee plants.

Workshop Overview

The training-of-trainers workshops in sustainable coffee production and processing were conducted in Bener Meriah (Gayo region), Aceh, on March 6–8, 2017, and in North Toraja, South Sulawesi, on March 13–16, 2017. In Bener Meriah, the local partner non-governmental organization, The Gayo Coffee Community (local name: Masyarakat Penggiat Kopi Gayo), helped organize the workshop. Each training session was attended by 30 participants, including agricultural extension officers, farmer leaders, and coffee activists.



Field trip to coffee plantation in North Toraja.

The workshops were led by the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute (ICCRI) and TPSA project environmental experts. A leading Indonesian coffee expert from Kebun Kopi Gayo delivered some of the training in Bener Meriah.

The workshop covered land management and coffee cultivation (e.g., seedling, planting, transplanting, weeding, pruning), environmentally friendly post-harvest processing (e.g., harvesting, wet and dry processing, drying, packaging, storing, transporting), management and reduction of coffee waste, and the characteristics of good-quality coffee. Other topics covered included the effects of climate change on coffee plants and eco-labelling. Gender equality issues were also discussed, especially in relation to women's and men's different roles within the Indonesian coffee industry and the implications in terms of agricultural technology adoption.

"Although I have been in the coffee industry for a very long time, I gained valuable knowledge and information from this training. I cherish the experience very much."

—HAMZAH
Coffee Farmer, Gowa, South Sulawesi

Workshop leaders also demonstrated cupping techniques to test coffee quality. Participants then had the opportunity to go to a coffee plantation and put in practice what they had learned in the workshop. In Bener Meriah, the coffee plantation was located in the provincial government's coffee research facility, where the workshop was held. In North Toraja, the coffee plantation was approximately one hour from the training location. During the field trip, the workshop leaders demonstrated planting, fertilizing, and pruning techniques, and the physical characteristics of healthy coffee plants.

Participant Feedback

In North Toraja, all participants reported that their skills and knowledge improved as a result of the workshop, with 83 per cent reporting that the improvement was significant.



Participants celebrate a successful workshop in Bener Meriah (Gayo region), Aceh.

Sixty per cent said that their new level of confidence in applying the knowledge was "very good," with the remaining 40 per cent saying "good."

Fifty-seven per cent said they would use the knowledge from the training "very frequently" or "frequently" in their work, while 35 per cent said "occasionally" and 8 per cent said "rarely."

"I have a positive impression of this coffee training, not only because it was held in the coffee region itself, but also that it enabled coffee farmers to exchange information and tips on their coffee products. Fifty per cent theory and 50 per cent field practice—a good combination."

—BARDI ALI
Gayo, Aceh

The participants reported good overall satisfaction with the training. Fifteen per cent gave a satisfaction rating of "excellent"; 62 per cent said "very good"; and 23 per cent said "good."

In Bener Meriah, 96 per cent reported that their skills and knowledge improved as a result of the workshop.

Sixty per cent per cent said that their new level of confidence in applying the knowledge was "very good," with the remaining 40 per cent saying "good."

The participants reported good overall satisfaction with the training. Twenty-nine per cent gave a satisfaction rating of "excellent"; 33 per cent said "very good"; and 38 per cent said "good."

Conclusion

The majority of workshop participants work in the coffee industry and are familiar with conventional coffee cultivation and post-harvest processing. The training introduced new perspectives in state-of-the-art sustainable coffee production and processing. The processing of coffee waste into biogas, for example, is a new environmentally friendly waste management technique that drew great interest. As well, climate change and eco-labelling are relatively recent coffee industry phenomena, and therefore new topics for the participants. Despite first-hand experience with the effects of climate change on their coffee plants, participants seemed to have limited knowledge on how to adapt.

As most of the trainees were coffee practitioners, many practical questions related to the challenges faced in the field were raised. The workshop leaders, being some of the best in Indonesia and very knowledgeable both in theory and hands-on experience, answered the questions thoroughly. The participants in both workshops were of the opinion that this kind of training should be conducted regularly, especially for agricultural extension officers and lead farmers, to learn about the latest developments. The workshop knowledge will allow participants to disseminate knowledge to other coffee farmers.



Participants celebrate a successful workshop in North Toraja, South Sulawesi.

About the TPSA Project

TPSA is a five-year C\$12-million project funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. The project is executed by The Conference Board of Canada, and the primary implementation partner is the Directorate General for National Export Development, Ministry of Trade.

TPSA is designed to provide training, research, and technical assistance to Indonesian government agencies, the private sector—particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—academics, and civil society organizations on trade-related information, trade policy analysis, regulatory reforms, and trade and investment promotion by Canadian, Indonesian, and other experts from public and private organizations.

The overall objective of TPSA is to support higher sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty in Indonesia through increased trade and trade-enabling investment between Indonesia and Canada. TPSA is intended to increase sustainable and gender-responsive trade and investment opportunities, particularly for Indonesian SMEs, and to increase the use of trade and investment analysis by Indonesian stakeholders for expanded trade and investment partnerships between Indonesia and Canada.

The expected immediate outcomes of TPSA are:

- improved trade and investment information flows between Indonesia and Canada, particularly for the private sector, SMEs, and women entrepreneurs, including trade-related environmental risks and opportunities;
- enhanced private sector business links between Indonesia and Canada, particularly for SMEs;
- strengthened analytical skills and knowledge of Indonesian stakeholders on how to increase trade and investment between Indonesia and Canada;
- improved understanding of regulatory rules and best practices for trade and investment.

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